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## Plastic bags are a problem because they...

- Use dwindling natural resources and create pollution during production and distribution
- Create significant litter, clogged street drains and sewers, which are costly to clean up
- Harm marine life and damage aquatic ecosystems
- Are difficult to recycle and are not accepted in curbside recycling

In 2007 San Francisco was the first city to ban non-compostable plastic checkout bags in supermarket and pharmacy chains. Board of Supervisors has now passed legislation to expand the non-compostable plastic bag ban.

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## The new legislation...

- Expands ban\* to include all retail stores starting in 10/1/2012
- Expands ban\* to include all restaurants starting in 10/1/2013
- Requires a 10-cent minimum charge on allowable checkout bags (charge for compostable plastic bags starts in October, 2013), with no charge required for customers taking their left-over food from a sit down dine-in restaurant
- Allows stores to keep the charge for bags, which will help offset additional costs for providing acceptable bags

### \*Checkout bags allowed under the ordinance:

- Certified compostable plastic bags
- Paper bags with 40% post-consumer recycled content
- Reusable bags designed for at least 125+ uses and washable for cleaning

### The legislation does **NOT** apply to:

- Bags used for bulk items, produce, nuts, grains, candy, meat, fish, small hardware, or bags used to separate items to avoid damage
- Bags from pharmacists to contain prescription drugs
- Newspaper bags
- Laundry or dry cleaning bags

For more information please call SFEnvironment at (415) 355-3700